

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace and supersede all prior versions and listings of the claims of this application.

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for use in preparing ~~a~~ biological specimen samples, comprising:

~~a biological specimen filter for collecting a portion of the biological specimen sample to be examined;~~

a tray defining ~~an~~ plurality of apertures for holding ~~the~~ respective biological specimen filters to be used for collecting portions of respective biological specimen samples to be examined; and

a data storage device attached to or positioned within the tray, wherein data related to the respective filters is stored in the data storage device.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the tray defining a separate recess, comprising a plurality of biological specimen filters for collecting portions of respective biological specimen samples to be examined, the tray defining a plurality of apertures for holding respective filters, and the data storage device located within the recess storing data related to the plurality of filters.

3. Canceled.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the respective filters being configured to collect cells of a biological specimen sample contained in a liquid or a solution.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, the data storage device comprising a read only memory.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, the data storage device comprising a read/write memory.

7-8. Canceled.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 28, the recess being generally symmetrical.
10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 28, a width or height of the recess being tapered.
11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the stored data indicating a respective test or a combination of tests that ~~is~~ are compatible with the respective filters.
12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the stored data indicating a respective specimen that is compatible with the respective filters.
13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the stored data indicating whether the respective filters have ~~has~~ expired.
14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the stored data indicating a number of processing steps involving the respective filters.
15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, the stored data indicating one or more parameters of processing steps involving the respective filters.
16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, the stored data comprising a unique registration number of the data storage device.
17. Canceled.
18. (Previously Amended) A system for preparing a biological specimen sample, comprising:
 - a biological specimen filter for collecting a portion of the biological specimen sample to be examined;
 - a tray defining an aperture for holding the filter;
 - a data storage device attached to or positioned within the tray;
 - a processor; and

a communications interface coupled to each of the data storage device and the processor, wherein data related to the filter is stored in the data storage device and can be retrieved there from by the processor through the communications interface.

19. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 18, comprising a plurality of filters, the tray defining a plurality of apertures for holding respective filters, and the data storage device storing data related to the plurality of filters.

20. Canceled.

21. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 18, the filter being configured to collect cells of the biological sample contained in a liquid or a solution.

22. (Original) The system of claim 18, the data storage device comprising a read only memory.

23. (Original) The system of claim 18, the data storage device comprising a read/write memory.

24. Canceled.

25. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 18, the tray further defining a recess, the data storage device being positioned in the recess.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25, the recess being generally symmetrical.

27. (Original) The system of claim 25, a width or a height of the recess being tapered.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27, the tapered recess being configured to receive the communications interface.

29. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 18, the processor having a housing, wherein

the tray is positionable inside of the processor housing.

30. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 18, the stored data indicating a test or a combination of tests that is compatible with the filter.

31. (Original) The system of claim 18, the stored data indicating a specimen that is compatible with the filter.

32. (Original) The system of claim 18, the stored data indicating whether the filter has expired.

33. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 18, the stored data indicating a number of processing steps involving the filter.

34. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 18, the stored data indicating one or more parameters of processing steps involving the filter.

35. (Original) The system of claim 18, the stored data comprising a unique registration number of the data storage device.

36. (Original) The system of claim 18, the communications interface comprising a serial data interface.

37. (Original) The system of claim 18, the communications interface comprising a mechanical interface.

38. (Original) The system of claim 18, the communications interface comprising a wireless interface.

39. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 18, further comprising a vial for holding the biological specimen sample, wherein the vial and the filter each includes a respective code.

40. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 39, further comprising a plurality of interfaces, respective interfaces being configured to read respective codes of the vial and the filter into the processor.

41. (Original) The system of claim 40, the respective codes comprising barcodes.

42. (Original) The system of claim 40, the respective interfaces comprising electro-optical interfaces.

43-58. Canceled.

59. (New) Apparatus for use with a specimen processing system for preparing a biological specimen sample, the apparatus comprising:

a tray defining a plurality of apertures for holding respective biological specimen filters to be used for collecting portions of respective biological specimen samples to be examined, the tray further defining a separate data communications port configured to mate or interface with a component of the specimen processing system; and

a data storage device attached to or positioned within the data communications port, wherein data related to the respective filters is stored in the data storage device.

60. (New) The apparatus of claim 59, the filters being configured to collect cells from respective biological specimen samples contained in a liquid or a solution.

61. (New) The apparatus of claim 59, the data storage device comprising a read only memory.

62. (New) The apparatus of claim 59, the data storage device comprising a read/write memory.

63. (New) The apparatus of claim 59, the recess being generally symmetrical, with a width or height of the recess being tapered.

64. (New) The apparatus of claim 59, the stored data indicating a respective test or a combination of tests which are compatible with the respective filters.
65. (New) The apparatus of claim 59, the stored data indicating a respective specimen that is compatible with the respective filters.
66. (New) The apparatus of claim 59, the stored data indicating whether the respective filters have expired.
67. (New) The apparatus of claim 59, the stored data indicating a number of processing steps involving the respective filters.
68. (New) The apparatus of claim 59, the stored data indicating one or more parameters of processing steps involving the respective filters.
69. (New) The apparatus of claim 59, the stored data including a unique registration number of the data storage device.